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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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DATE MAILED:

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of this application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's communication of 7-19-04
☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 20-27

☐ The drawings filed on _____ are acceptable as formal drawings.

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the:

☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. PCT/GB97/03193

☒ ~~Certified~~ copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE FOR SUBMITTING NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS, OR A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION. This three-month period for complying with the REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL is extendable under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

☐ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

☐ because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.

☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. _____.

☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on _____, which has been approved by the examiner.

☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings.

☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any reply to this notice should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for the Deposit of Biological Material

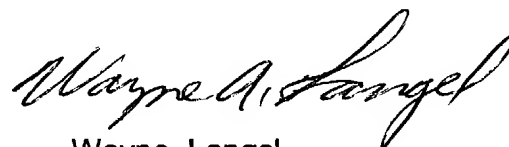
☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 20-27 are allowable over Quinlan et al (U.S. Pat. 4,812,300), in view of the Declaration by Sean Alexander Axon filed under 37 C.F.R. 1.132 on July 19, 2004 and the arguments presented by applicants on July 19, 2004. To summarize, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to substitute cerium or praseodymium for strontium as the dopant in the perovskite of Quinlan et al, in view of the facts that Quinlan et al state at col. 9, lines 42-44 that the selectivity for NO was only slightly affected by the addition of Sr, and Ce and Pr are known to be difficult to incorporate because of their low solubility. (See Paragraph 7 of the Axon Declaration.) Paragraph 5 of the Axon Declaration shows a higher efficiency for the cerium-doped perovskite versus the strontium-doped perovskite, and Paragraph 8 gives a plausible explanation as to why similar results would be expected to be achieved for a praseodymium-doped catalyst (i.e., the similar redox behaviour of cerium and praseodymium). Paragraph 7 of the Declaration further gives a plausible explanation as to why the inclusion of a variable-valency cation selected from cerium and praseodymium in the A-site of the cobalt perovskite leads to improved catalytic performance, i.e., because of the ability to "shuttle" between the 4 and 3 oxidation states, which ability is not possessed by divalent strontium.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 1754

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Wayne Langel
at telephone number 571-272-1353.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne A. Langel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Wayne Langel
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1754